



HISTORIAN ON CHINA'S 'NEED TO ADJUST'
Pacheco Pereira argues that China can't continue indefinitely as a country run by 'contradictory ideologies'

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FEWER EMPLOYEES IN GAMING INDUSTRY

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NANCY REMEMBERED FOR HER PRIVATE STYLE
Unlike other presidential wives, Nancy Reagan, who died Sunday at 94, wasn't out to break the rules of being first lady

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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Seeking to douse fears about China's economy, the finance minister says that Beijing can manage its rising debt load as it steps up deficit spending to prevent a slide in growth. [More on p10](#)



INDONESIA has defended its decision to allow Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, a war crimes suspect, into the country for a summit of Muslim nations. [More on p13](#)

INDIA Thousands of dead fish have washed up on the banks of a polluted lake in India's southern technology hub of Bangalore. People spotted the dead fish floating in Ulsoor Lake yesterday in a residential district. A residents' spokesman said sewage from many parts of the city has been flowing into the lake, depleting oxygen levels in the water. Water samples are being collected for testing.



PAKISTAN A suicide bomber attacked the entrance to a court in northwest Pakistan yesterday, killing 11 people, police said. The blast in the town of Shabqadar also wounded another 15 people.

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FOLLOWING ARREST OF SIX POLICEMEN

Absent officer testified in crime ring case

P7 MDT REPORT



'The denial of the right of appeal is inadequate and embarrassing'

Paulo Barbosa

PAULO Cardinal is well positioned to comment on the state of affairs of the legal system in Macau. A legal adviser to the Legislative Assembly for more than twenty years, he is also a scholar and an author, currently completing a PhD in law at the University of Coimbra. Mr Cardinal considers himself "an optimist" who says what he thinks, although he may not say all he thinks. He illustrates that idiosyncrasy with a story: "Some groups in the PRC see me as an oppositionist. I recall one time in Beijing when a uniformed gentleman pointed his finger at me in an attempt to reeducate me, shouting in Mandarin. Contrarily, during a United Nations seminar I had a gentleman from Tibet accusing me of being a dangerous agent of the PRC."

In an interview with the Times, Paulo Cardinal comments on Ho Chio Meng's arrest and gives his view on issues like the Basic Law, the implementation of the "one country, two systems" policy and the legal protection of non-resident workers. The Portuguese legal expert stresses that the opinions revealed in this interview reflect his own personal views and not those of the institution he works for.

Macau Daily Times – How would you describe the controversy surrounding the arrest of the former Prosecutor General, Ho Chio Meng?

Paulo Cardinal – The controversy around this case is precisely that, a controversy. It is a case of paramount relevance and, instead of having thus far a solid set of juridical or judicial answers, it is permeated by doubts, perplexities and paradoxes, at least apparently. This controversy, this 'case', is undoubtedly extremely important for the sake of the judicial system and of the SAR itself. And it seems complex for a number of reasons. In fact, in order to have a comprehensive approach and attempt to really understand it, we could view it as white collar crime, delving into corruption, by a rather high official – one of the principal officials, nominated by the Chief Executive and appointed by the Central People's Government – but not only that. It is necessary, as mentioned already, to investigate whether the person also committed any of these crimes in relation to his high functions; that is, if it illegally influenced the normal progression of cases in the

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Daniel Beittler

PORTUGUESE political analyst, historian and politician José Pacheco Pereira yesterday told reporters that China can not continue indefinitely as a country run by simultaneous yet contradictory ideologies and systems, warning that eventually it would lead to an internal collision.

"There is no other place in the world that has a capitalist system run by a communist party," said Pereira. "They [will] need to adjust something. The way things are going now the systems will collide."

Speaking at a press conference prior to a talk organized by the European Union Academic Programme – Macau (also included in the Macau Literary Festival program), the former vice president of the European Parliament further warned that the conflict between state capitalism and a thin veneer of communism is hardly the only contradiction in the world's second largest economy.

He also recognizes an internal conflict between China's modernizing economy and its entrenched autocratic governance

China must adapt to avoid impending internal collision



José Pacheco Pereira

that seeks to curtail dissent and repress freedoms.

"You cannot have a modern society without freedom... even in economic terms," he rationalized.

"You have to have conflicts and escapes [like trade union activity and strikes]. You

cannot disappear if you publish books that the government does not like."

"Even if I recognize that the CCP is one of the most successful parties - irrespective of its ideology - you cannot rule indefinitely from a single source

OWNER OF THE LARGEST PRIVATE LIBRARY

JOSÉ PACHECO Pereira is the owner of what he describes as the "largest private archive-library" in Portugal, totaling more than 200,000 books and documents. It is said that were the books and documents to be arranged on a single bookshelf the shelf would need to be 5km in length. The collection also includes artifacts, such as objects from the Cultural Revolution, and a small tin safe that was used to col-

lect money for the then-new state of Israel. "I am trying to maintain a certain amount of rescue to books that are normally thrown away," he said, adding that he focuses on the salvation of books that relate to modern history and contemporary politics "in a broad sense." Asked whether he intends to open his collection to the public, he said simply: "if you want to visit for research, it [the library] is open."

of power [...] and it is impossible to have modernity without the inclusion of the views of many different people," added Pereira.

The historian admits that while these are medium- and long-term pressures on the Chinese state, "conflicts and contradictions always have cycles," inferring that their effects intensify and diminish alternately. He agrees that the recent economic problems observed in China over the last six months may have some connection to these internal contradictions, concluding that the country's development requires more "openness".

However Pereira is somewhat more optimistic when it comes to the triangular relationship between China, Macau and Portugal, claiming that the MSAR faces a unique opportunity in "embracing" its Portuguese heritage. He adds that it could serve as a boon to the three parties.

"China really does not need Portugal but if they have Portuguese people in their own country, it is an advantage," he said as it contributes to the diversity of thought in a nation.

"This is true of Macau, as it is of Hong Kong, and other places," added Pereira, referring to the other European enclaves in the late-19th and early-20th centuries such as German-occupied Qingdao.

"The world is a complex place," he continued, "and differences among people contribute to diversity. They are an advantage. And it is a great advantage to China to be able to absorb [the cultures of other] countries with a long history."

Fortunately, according to Pereira, the Portuguese culture in Macau has been "crystallized" or preserved even better than in Portugal itself, which has "developed and changed with the times."

"It's not a bad thing for it to happen here," he added.

Pessimistic about EU future

FOR Pereira's talk at the University of Macau, the main purpose of his visit, the former vice president of the European Parliament opened by explaining that he is "very pessimistic about the future of the European Union [EU]," and warned that: "You are not going to hear good news from me."

He described the EU's involvement in foreign wars, the divisive reaction of Member States to the tens of thousands of Syrian refugees, and the rise of radicalized elements within European politics as the result of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, from which "our present problems began."

Separately Pereira added that the European economic crisis has affected the political sphere leading in many places to less democracy and the intensification of autocratic factions. "Whether they are of the left or the right, European electorates are increasingly deserting the center ground."

As for Portugal, the financial crisis has caused the country and the government to look inward. This comes at the expense of attention paid to Portuguese communities abroad, such as those in Macau, but also to the Portuguese-speaking countries themselves.

Int'l Women's Day seminar to be held at UM

THE European Union Academic Programme in Macau (EUAP-M) is commemorating International Women's Day this year with a seminar titled "Women and Gender Politics: The Contemporary Situations in Europe and Macau."

Speakers will include Agnes Lam and Tony Schirato from the De-

partment of Communication at the University of Macau (UM), as well as Brian Hall from the Department of Psychology.

The seminar is open to the public and will be held today at 3 p.m. at the UM's Tai Fung Lecture Hall (E4-G051). It will be held in English.

Established in 2012, the EUAP-M is a partnership between the

UM and the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), co-financed by the European Union. It aims to raise awareness of the EU in Macau's general public, particularly among local students.

Every year International Women's Day is given a theme by the United Nations (UN), and the 2016 theme is "Planet 50-50 by

2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" (more on page 14).

In addition, an independent campaign is being run this year by professional services firm EY in collaboration with other corporate partners to organize various events while promoting the cause through a complementary #PledgeForParity hashtag.

ATFPM SEMINAR ON WOMEN RIGHTS

THE MACAU Civil Servants' Association (ATFPM) held a seminar on women's rights, where topics such as sexual harassment, domestic violence and maternity leave were discussed. According to Rita Santos, President of the ATFPM, the association will "strongly support the

Legislative Assembly to classify domestic violence as a public crime, and to help it promote the convictions of those accused of sexual harassment." In addition, the ATFPM will continue to advocate for 90 days' maternity leave, and it hopes to see more female lawmakers and top officials

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Fong Chi Keong claims non-involvement in Ho Chio Meng's case



Fong Chi Keong

At the National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, lawmaker Fong Chi Keong reassured the media of his non-involvement in the Ho Chio Meng case, Macao Daily News reported.

According to initial reports, Fong believes that the rumor of his entanglement in Ho's case started spreading after he vented his opinion on public affairs.

Besides being a member of the Legislative Assembly, Fong is also the leader of a number of non-governmental organizations, and has a record of more than twenty years of contribution to charity work. Fong added that had he loved money so

much, he would not have committed himself to non-profitable jobs. "We use our brains to make money, not corruption," he said.

Ho Chio Meng stands accused of pocketing over MOP44 million from illegally granting public contracts. To the lawmaker, the amount of money which Ho was allegedly given was, in fact, small. He also thinks that the Commission Against Corruption's investigation of the former Public Prosecutor General was "a show to grab attention."

Fong added, "It's MOP 20,000 per case. Do you really think he is so desperately in need of money? He holds a doctoral degree, is he really so shallow? Think about it, nobody would believe it."

Fong argued that legislative work in Macau should serve the city, not just the privileged. He stated that the foundations of a harmonious society, which should be deemed as a priority, rely on the economy.



MP CORRUPTION CASE

TUI reacts to allegations of biased 'habeas corpus' decision

The Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has responded to an article published in yesterday morning's Son Pou newspaper, where doubts were cast on the rejection of the "habeas corpus" petition made by former Prosecutor General, Ho Chio Meng.

The newspaper questioned the participation of judge Song Man Lei in the decision to convict him, as well as the decision to deny his claim of unlawful

imprisonment.

TUI's statement indicates that "foreign judge" Viriato de Lima ordered the preventive custody of Ho Chio Meng.

TUI added that Lima declared a self-impediment from the decision on the "habeas corpus" petition, according to article 29 of the Macau Criminal Code. According to the statement, only in the occurrence of a case identified in articles 28 and 29

of the Criminal Code can the three judges of the TUI be declared unable to judge on the case. This request can be fulfilled by their own will or that of a third party, TUI added.

Having presided over preliminary hearings, Viriato de Lima is unable to pass any further judgment in Ho's case. The other two judges of the collective will still be able to judge future trials of this case, the statement adds. RM

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public prosecutor's office. This is far more relevant and worrying in terms of the system's credibility. Another fact that also merits contextualization is that this person was once publicly slated in the community to become chief executive. All this being said, with all the seriousness of the case exposed, it is imperative – in the name of the second system in force in Macau – to fully observe the Basic Law and core principles in force such as constitutionality, legality, presumption of innocence, right of appeal; as well as to strictly observe the laws in force and apply them in a correct manner. (...)

This, however, has not been totally achieved so far. In fact, how can one explain to the population that for some matters, the person is apparently viewed as a magistrate – that's why the TUI was in charge of determining Ho Chio Meng's detention. Yet in other aspects, he was not considered a magistrate, such as the non-application of article 33 of Law 10/1999 (special guarantees concerning pre-trial detention and protective custody). Who, in society, will understand this paradox? If it is only an apparent paradox and not a real one, why has no one explained it so far, especially in such a high-impact case?

MDT – Should Ho Chio Meng be considered a magistrate?

PC – I do not know everything that might provide a conclusive answer. For example, has he so far been granted the special regimen established in articles 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 of Law 10/1999, 'Estatuto dos Magistrados?' These deal with various rights, such as the right to personal use of a vehicle, residential phone, medical assistance for him and his family, several subsidies, aspects related to official missions of representation outside Macau... If yes, that means these had been maintained after he took over his functions with the studies committee, so it seems he is still a magistrate.

We could add other reasons. For example, in disciplinary issues, article 65 states clearly that besides the acts practiced in violation of the magistrate's professional duties, aspects of their public life that may be incompatible with the dignity required to the exercise such functions shall also be subjected to disciplinary proceedings. This presupposes an idea of viewing magistrates as more than just strictly performing their duties.

MDT – Is the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) the appropriate court to assess this case?

PC – Regarding the TUI being the appropriate court and the consequent denial of the fundamental right of appeal, I must say first and foremost that it is not understandable that the problem still exists after a decade. The uncertainty posed, and the possible

MDT INTERVIEW | PAULO CARDINAL, LEGAL EXPERT

'The denial of the right of appeal is inadequate and embarrassing'



or probable denial of a fundamental right of appeal, is very damaging. It creates a bad image for the system and it is difficult to accept. Nothing was done 10 years after the [Ao Man Long] case; none of the many warnings were taken into consideration. The naked truth is that the denial of the fundamental right of appeal means the disregard and restriction of a fundamental right, and of the Basic Law's generous right of access to justice. It is a clear and direct violation of the ICCPR (14.5, and there are many international reports and decisions reaffirming this doctrine, especially in cases such as this) and of article 40 of the Basic Law. Besides, it imposes an image of a weak system in regard to the respect and safeguard of fundamental rights. The problem is not new and, I must underline, is a real problem with our current law. Something could have been done before and should have been done afterwards, especially by way of changing the Basic Law. After two revisions, in 2004 and in 2009, this problem was simply not tackled.

MDT – And how could it be tackled?

PC – For example, by changing the composition of the TUI from three to seven, or at least five. Naturally, one cannot help but wonder why we do not implement Hong Kong's system of non-permanent judges. This new system in which the first instance of the TUI would operate via a section and on appeal, in plenary, could provide adequate answers. The fact is that the TUI is in need of change, in order to renew itself, in order to foment new approaches rather than crystallize its current one. Three judges is also a rather small number. Too small. The court's competencies could be reinforced in some subject matters in order to better justify its increment in the number of judges. (...) All of the above means a change of the law. Nevertheless, it is my understanding that, even

in the absence of a legal change (clearly the optimal solution), the courts should resort to any possible legal means to guarantee the effectiveness of the fundamental right of appeal; such as by way of resorting to general principles of law, or by directly applying international norms in force. It would not be easy, surely, but would also not be impossible.

In short, this is a situation that should be unacceptable in a system that preserves the Rule of Law. It undermines it. And this sacrifice is not necessary to effectively pursue justice and administer it. On the contrary, a system that is conceived with all minimum guarantees and that does apply [this rule], receives reinforced legitimacy in its decisions, including guilty verdicts. The denial of the fundamental right of appeal is unnecessary, inadequate and embarrassing.

MDT – Journalists and analysts have drawn two different conclusions from the case. Some say it is an example of a legal system that is working properly, while others say that it is a sign of its unreliability. What do you think?

PC – Here, and I believe anywhere, a situation like this can be legitimately viewed from two perspectives: a sign of discrediting the system or a sign that the system has ways to attack the crimes that discredit it. I believe both [arguments] carry good weight.

MDT – You argue that the concept of 'legal entity' cannot only be reduced to sovereign states, although that idea is favored in China. However, China is being more interventionist in the international scene, trying to regulate issues such as the use of the Internet. How can these contradictory tendencies reconcile themselves?

PC – For example, the U.S. is a

global power with a strong voice in the international panorama. It doesn't have a concept of sovereignty similar to the one that appears in China. (...) From China's viewpoint, it seems that the concept of sovereignty is frozen in time, and is more characteristic of the past century or even the end of the 19th century. It is a whole, indivisible and inalienable concept that doesn't follow the tendencies observed over the past century, during which time the concept of sovereignty was relativized, opening space for entities other than the States. For example, the SARs of Macau and Hong Kong are clearly new players in the field of international law.

From a legal viewpoint, I see a certain fragmentation of social groups.

MDT – Despite being represented in several international organizations, you advocate that Macau is a 'legal entity' with limited capacity. Can you explain what you meant?

PC – Yes, Macau and Hong Kong [have that capacity]. The main subject of international law is the State. As a matter of principle, a State has the full ability to impose its laws. Everything that is not a State enjoys a limited capacity. Macau and Hong Kong have those limitations. For example - and the Basic Law is very clear in this regard - Macau can't sign defense or military treaties. But in matters related to sports, culture, labor, education and many others, Macau enjoys the capability to sign international treaties

with other entities. On a quantitative basis, Hong Kong is a member of more international organizations than Macau.

MDT – But Macau and Hong Kong can take part in those organizations on a completely autonomous basis?

PC – Macau is not an independent state and there are areas where it cannot intervene. But I believe, for example, that in civil aviation – a very relevant topic for Macau – Macau signs international treaties related to routes, slots and other matters with complete autonomy. I don't know if that really happens since I don't work in that area. But, as a matter of principle, it has this autonomy. To give another example, Macau is a founding member of the World Trade Organization, an organization that operates under the United Nations umbrella.

MDT – You argue that the Joint Declaration on Macau (which led to the transfer of sovereignty from Portugal to the PRC) takes precedence over the Basic Law...

PC – Yes, it may sound like a strange opinion, denoting an 'over-internationalist' profile. I don't mean that, since I don't think that all international law should be above internal law, like the constitutions – although that happens in some cases, like the Netherlands. Macau is a very special situation and what I say about Macau applies to Hong Kong in 99.9 percent of cases. There were questions that, as people like to say here, were 'historical legacies' and that could be solved in several ways. One of those would be through war – China would very likely have the right to say 'this is ours and we are going to take over.' Fortunately, things didn't happen that way. It should be noted that, at this time, the PRC was returning to the international scene and needed to demonstrate that it respected and was actively contributing to international law.

MDT – And they did it through the joint declarations with the United Kingdom and later with Portugal?

PC – By doing that, the PRC indicated that it values international law and wants to abide by it. The reversion of Macau to the PRC is not a blank cheque. The reversion meant that a Basic Law was drafted, that the MSAR was created, that the society's idiosyncrasy would be maintained for issues of human rights, religion, and the economic and social sys-

tems. That naturally implies that, in order to abide by international law, the joint declaration must be above the Basic Law.

Furthermore, the Basic Law states its subordination to the Joint Declaration [see preamble and article 144: "No amendment to this Law shall contravene the established basic policies of the People's Republic of China regarding Macau."]. And the Basic Law's preamble states that, 'basic policies of the People's Republic of China regarding Macau have been elaborated by the Chinese Government in the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration.' To me, this is clear. I understand that politically it is perhaps unwanted, but it is the correct stance and I'm not doing politics here. As a legal expert and law scholar this is what I conclude. (...) This was valid in 1999 but it is also valid now, because the Joint Declaration is in force until 2049.

MDT – As it is often said, do you see the Basic Law as a "mini-constitution"?

PC – I don't call it that, because it has a large scope. That is a euphemism used in some Chinese jurisprudence, but it is problematic: they have to say that the Basic Law must be enforced, but they don't want to say it is a constitution, so they call it 'mini.' It is not 'mini,' it is truly a constitution as it regulates the matters as any constitution does, such as the functions of the political system, fundamental rights and the economic system. It is not a constitution in the ultimate sense – because Macau is not a state – but it works like one.

MDT – Does Macau lack a law on the exercise of fundamental rights?

PC – The panorama of fundamental rights in Macau is not unfavorable. The problem is that citizens should never take those rights for granted. It may be very hard to build a good system of fundamental rights, but it is very easy to erode them. The most relevant instrument lacking in Macau is a general law that ensures the exercise of fundamental rights. It is one thing to say that we all enjoy the right to hold meetings and organize a demonstration, or that we all have religious freedom. The laws detail, for example, the right to hold meetings: if authorities must be informed, etc.

But when things go wrong, how can we react? (...) Law can't be applied without restrictions. How are those restrictions made? Can they have retroactive effects, can the rights be suspended? Are there rights that can't be suspended in any instance? Those provisions are currently nonexistent, but they existed before 1999 through the enforcement of the Portuguese Constitution, which includes principles like proportionality, the adequate use of the law and even the right to resist. If a fundamental right is being threatened, a citizen should have a lawful right to resist.

Regarding proportionality, I can't, for example, cite the right to have ease of transit to abolish the right to hold a meeting. Perhaps I can say that the meeting can't be held at 7 p.m., but instead at 8 p.m. and use the road partially in order not to block it.

MDT – But how do you explain the proposal to establish a Trade Union Law being constantly voted down at the Legislative Assembly, although it has been gathering more support?

PC – I'm in support of a Trade Union Law because I'm for the Basic Law. I believe this is not so much a political question but rather a practical question. Lawmakers are navel-gazing. Something must change. The World Trade Organization has clearly criticized the MSAR regarding this matter. China, Hong Kong and Taiwan have Trade Union laws. The civilized world, whether it be integrated in a more capitalist or socialist bloc, have Trade Union laws. Those countries didn't end, the structure of the state didn't crumble, the companies didn't go bankrupt. This is an old question.

I'm in support of a Trade Union Law because I'm for the Basic Law.

Dr Neto Valente wrote an article prior to 1999 where he states that this question is not mainly political: many lawmakers are linked to business interests and can't dissociate themselves from those interests. I don't know if this is true and it's not up to me to tell, I'm just pointing out a possible explanation. We had strikes in Macau and, looking at the labor associations, I don't foresee that [after the eventual trade union law approval] we will enter a period of endless strikes.

MDT – What's your take on the protection of the so-called non-resident workers in Macau?

PC – From a legal viewpoint, I see a certain fragmentation of social groups that is not coherent with a democratic and pluralist society, and above all with a society that has a profound tradition of accepting people from elsewhere. That happened during World War II and in 1949, and with the 'boat people' from Vietnam. It seems that there is a 'divide' between permanent residents, non-permanent residents and others. I see, with some concern, speeches that are ignorant, xenophobic and groundless. Obviously, Macau is a small place and is not able to receive everybody. A set of criteria must be established in order to



PAULO BARBOSA

determine who should be received. But once a person is integrated in the local workforce, he or she should be treated equally and accorded the same rights and duties as a resident.

MDT – Macau is far from achieving that.

PC – Very far away. We have cases of non-residents that contribute to the welfare system and do not benefit from it. This is inconceivable. The same applies to the right to an education. There are cases of children who have their parents staying here legally – we are not speaking of criminals – and face difficulties enrolling in local schools.

The division between permanent and non-permanent residents, according to the Basic Law, serves only one purpose: the exercise of political rights. All the rest is wrong. For example, it's groundless that a permanent resident is entitled to a health voucher and a non-permanent resident isn't. Regarding this question, the last Trade Union Law proposal presented by Kwan Tsui Hang, Lam Heong Sang and Ella Lei was going in the right direction, because it didn't differentiate between permanent, non-permanent and non-residents. All those were beneficiaries of the rights to freedom of association.

MDT – Do you believe that the recent incident of the missing booksellers and the riots in Hong Kong could impact upon the "one country, two systems" policy?

PC – Regarding the booksellers, I don't know what happened. If it is what's being said – that they were kidnapped and taken to the mainland – that is obviously a blow to the implementation of the "one country, two systems" idea.

MDT – Do you see similar things happening in Macau?

PC – I know that there are books of the same type being sold in Macau and, as far as I know, nobody has disappeared.

MDT – How do you assess the "one country, two systems" policy applied to Ma-

cau? It's officially been described as a success...

PC – The Basic Law is not a masterpiece and the policy implementation is not perfect. Assessing the pros and cons, I see it as successful, so much so that other parts of the world have been tempted to copy the Hong Kong and Macau model. (...) The model is well built, but a lot depends on the dynamics of its implementation. There are the words and the men. The words of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, and the men that will implement those words. There is a natural tension as part of the dynamics related to autonomy issues. The center – in this case Beijing – tries to get more power and the periphery – Macau and Hong Kong – also try to achieve more power. The Basic Law establishes limits, but there are grey areas.

What happens then? Clearly in Hong Kong they are trying to retain a higher degree of autonomy from Beijing. Generally speaking, the policy (in Macau) is a success. But are there warning signs? Maybe. For example, there are some decisions made by TUI about the famous moot point of the referendum, which seems to indicate an interpretation that is frozen in the 'first system' and not in the 'second system'. Some of the government's stances on that matter are concerning. But in Macau, I feel there is freedom and I can express my opinions as I wish. Before 1999, under Portuguese administration, I was reprehended and they wanted to expel me from Macau.

MDT – What do you think will happen to Hong Kong and Macau after 2047 and

2049, respectively?

PC – As the Americans would say, that's the million-dollar question. Autonomy is guaranteed until those dates? What could happen? To end all forms of autonomy does not go against the Joint Declaration from a legal viewpoint. But it may disappoint society's expectations. Autonomy can also be renewed, though not in the form of a joint declaration. China can say that the Basic Law will be in force for a longer time. Another thing can also happen: the development of the PRC may create a situation where, at that time, there's neither a first nor a second system.

As Macau citizens – and I'm one, although I was not born here – we should push for the second system. The second system is about, for example, not allowing the University of Macau to undermine the Portuguese language. The second system cannot forget that Portuguese is an official language in Macau. This is not because it was imposed by Portugal. It is an official language because it was imposed by the PRC through a treaty signed in free will by two sovereign states and submitted to the United Nations. There is no treaty that can be more formal than that. There are often individuals with stances that are apparently favorable to the first system but in fact question the PRC-defined policies toward Macau and Hong Kong.

MDT – Regarding the Portuguese and the law, there was a recent issue where a Portuguese prosecutor was asked by Lisbon to return to Portugal.

PC – I don't know the details of that case, but it is an example. Due to the lack of human resources, and the quality and experience of those resources, Macau needs judges and prosecutors with Portuguese roots. Portugal must understand that it has historical responsibilities to make sure that the Portuguese-based law continues. (...) I have been arguing for a long time – and I have been misunderstood – that we should follow Hong Kong's example. Until recently, Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal had judges from Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Brunei. And there was no problem, nobody said it was colonialism. What we should have here are more judges with Portuguese roots, by which I mean, for example, judges from Cape Verde or from Brazil.

STUDIES ON MACAU LAW LAGGING BEHIND

PAULO CARDINAL recently introduced the trilingual book, "Macau SAR and the European Union" at the Rui Cunha Foundation. He says that the work, penned by Francisco Leandro, is a good example of the kind of legal research that is lacking in Macau. "There should be more research [...] It is lacking in the University of Macau. It doesn't publish a lot [regarding legal mat-

ters] and it doesn't seem to be accessible, when it should be a point of reference," Cardinal says. "The Macau law can only survive if there's genuine work of study, research and publishing. Afterwards, people can agree or disagree, but this work is needed. The roots are Portuguese but the law is not Portuguese anymore and it will become increasingly distant from that."

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SURVEY

Fewer employees in gaming industry



AT the end of the fourth quarter of 2015, the gaming industry had 56,217 full-time employees, down by 2.7 percent year-on-year, according to the Survey on Manpower Needs and Wages by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The survey indicated that average earnings (excluding bonuses and allowances) of full-time employees was MOP21,630, up by 4.6 percent year-on-year. Casinos employed 24,619 dealers, down by 4.4 percent, with their average earnings rising by 4.3 percent.

At the end of the fourth quarter of 2015, the gaming industry had a total of 462 job vacancies, down by 379. Most

vacancies were for clerks, service and sales workers, with none for dealers.

In terms of recruitment prerequisites, 42 percent of the positions required prior work experience; 70.6 percent asked for upper secondary or higher education. 88.7 percent and 55.8 percent of all positions required applicants to possess knowledge of Mandarin and English, respectively.

34,527 employees throughout the industry attended vocational training courses provided by their respective companies (some of which had been jointly organized with other institutions), up by 48.2 percent year-on-year.

Missing police officer testified on illegal border-crossing case

Renato Marques

THE Deputy Superintendent who went missing last week was a witness in the case of the six police officers arrested by the Judiciary Police (PJ) in early January for alleged involvement in an organized crime scheme that enabled mainland Chinese gamblers to illegally enter the territory, a Public Security Police Force (PSP) source told the Times.

The missing officer had worked in the Criminal Intelligence Unit before a recent transfer to another department. The Director of the Unitary Police Service, Ma Io Kun, highlighted the case during the Macau Police Force's Open Day event on Sunday at the police headquarters.

According to information from the director, the disappearance of the Deputy Superintendent occurred right after the PJ called him to testify as a wit-

ness in a criminal case on which he was working.

Ma stated that the police have already spoken to the officer's family and have initiated disciplinary procedures, a regulatory measure for officers who take an unjustified absence

from duty for more than five consecutive days.

Ma also said on Sunday, "I believe once the case is done, we will be able to understand what happened."

The police are investigating the officer's whereabouts.

Police save woman from unusual 'kidnapping'

THE border police saved a woman from two kidnapers en route to mainland China, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a press conference held yesterday afternoon at police headquarters.


While visiting a local casino, the victim met two mainland Chinese residents, one aged 33 and the other 35, who offered her HKD50,000 to gamble in exchange for interest. After losing the full amount

and being held against her will in a hotel room, the victim was coerced into crossing the border to mainland China alongside the two extortionists, who demanded a ransom for her release.

When crossing the border, the woman alerted the border police who rescued her and, with the help of the PJ, arrested her two captors.

The men have been presented to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP).

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AIRASIA RE-LAUNCHES PHP1 SEAT SALE



Low-cost carrier AirAsia kicked off its three million promotional seats campaign yesterday as it brought back the one peso seat sale.

AirAsia and AirAsia X brought back the "Red Hot Seat Sale," which will connect travellers to over 100 destinations across 22 countries.

Flights included are to and from Manila, Kalibo, Palawan, Bohol, Cebu, Davao, Tacloban and international destinations in Korea, Malaysia, China, Macau and Hong Kong, according to reports.

AirAsia Group chief commercial officer Siegfried Teh said travelers can take advantage of the Fly-Thru service to connect to AirAsia X destinations including Auckland, Sapporo, Tokyo, Gold Coast, and Sydney among others.

"Guests may grab this opportunity to make advanced travel plans and enjoy extra value for their money. We have introduced many new and undiscovered routes throughout the region," he said.

CITY OF DREAMS' RESTAURANTS LISTED AMONG SCMP'S BEST DINING



City of Dreams announced yesterday that its contemporary French restaurant The Tasting Room and Chinese culinary establishment Jade Dragon, have been named among Hong Kong and Macau's best 100 dining establishments by the independent editorial panel of the South China Morning Post (SCMP).

According to a statement, the tributes are the latest additions to Melco Crown Entertainment's growing tally of awards, building on the five Michelin stars, eight Forbes Five-Star and one Forbes Four-star awards already announced this year.

Kristoffer Luczak, Senior Vice President of Food and Beverage, Melco Crown Entertainment Limited said the company remains committed to offering award-winning Chinese and Western cuisines for the enjoyment of locals and tourists alike, and will continue to raise the bar on fine dining in Macau.

Alibaba buys HK firm for China lotteries

ALIBABA Group Holding Ltd. and its main financial affiliate will spend HKD2.39 billion (USD308 million) buying control of Hong Kong-listed AG-Tech Holdings Ltd. to boost its lottery business in China.

Ali Fortune Investment Holding Ltd., a company majority-owned by China's largest online retailer, agreed to buy HKD1.68 billion of shares and HKD712.6 million of convertible bonds in AGTech. It will own about 59.45 percent of the company upon full conversion, according to a filing this weekend to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

The acquisition marks the return of China's e-commerce leader to the lucrative Chinese lottery businesses, after suspending operations due to increasingly onerous government restrictions.

AGTech, which runs lotteries in multiple provinces in China, will expand its games, hardware, and distribution across the country, the company said. China's lottery business, which is strictly



Jack Ma

regulated by the government, had a participation rate of about 7.5 percent in 2013, compared with 56 percent in Hong Kong for 2012, showing potential for growth, the company said.

Alibaba and its affiliate will help AGTech with cloud computing, the company said in an e-mailed statement yesterday. Both will subscribe to AGTech's shares at about HKD0.35 apiece. Shares in the Hong Kong-listed company closed 7.5 percent

lower at HKD1.84.

Ali Fortune is 60 percent owned by Alibaba and 40 percent owned by Alipay-operator Zhejiang Ant Small & Micro Financial Services Group, also known as Ant Financial.

Alibaba's earnings ended September were hurt by the suspension of its lottery business since late February last year due to regulation restrictions, the company said during a conference call in October. **Bloomberg**

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BIS REPORT

China's USD175 billion outflow wasn't investor flight

PERSISTENT capital outflows from China since mid-2014 were probably driven more by local companies paying down their dollar-denominated debt - in anticipation of a stronger U.S. currency - than investors ditching assets, according to the Bank for International Settlements.

The outpouring of China's currency "led to two different narratives," researchers for the Switzerland-based institution said in a report this week. "One tells a story of investors selling mainland assets en masse; the other of Chinese firms paying down their dollar debt. Our analysis favors the second view, but also points to what both narratives miss - the shrinkage of offshore renminbi deposits."

The BIS, which warned in December that emerging-market nations may be borrowing too much too quickly, examined a record USD175 billion net decline in cross-border capital to China in the July-September period of 2015. Of that, the study showed \$12 billion of this was official reserves outflows, and the remainder was private outflows.

Almost three quarters of the \$163 billion of non-reserve outflows was comprised of factors including a reduction in yuan



The headquarters of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) are reflected in a window in Basel

deposits, which was counted as \$80 billion in capital leaving the country, as well as local Chinese companies directly repaying \$34 billion in foreign-currency debt to offshore banks and \$7 billion to local banks.

The assertions by the 85-year-

old institution, which coordinates the biggest central banks, sheds some light on China's economic fragility, which has riveted investors ever since the \$5 trillion stock market crash last summer.

China's foreign-exchange stock-

pile fell by \$28.6 billion to \$3.2 trillion in February, declining for 16 of the past 18 months, the People's Bank of China said in a statement yesterday. The drop was the smallest since reserves increased in October.

Premier Li Keqiang announced a 6.5 percent to 7 percent expansion goal Saturday, down from an objective of about 7 percent last year and the first range offered since 1995. To reach the new target, the government will permit a record deficit and has raised its money-supply expansion target.

As the slowdown in Asia's largest economy became more evident, it has roiled markets worldwide. China's credit-rating outlook this month was lowered to negative from stable at Moody's Investors Service, which highlighted the country's surging debt burden and questioned the government's ability to enact reforms.

The country's total debt-to-

GDP ratio swelled to 247 percent last year from 166 percent in 2007, propelled by a lending binge in the aftermath of the global financial crisis.

Partial data suggested outflows from China continued in the fourth quarter of 2015. While the reduction of offshore yuan deposits slowed during the period, repayments of foreign-currency debt by companies accelerated, the BIS said. Price developments so far this year also suggested greater strains than in the second half of last year, it said.

The Chinese central bank's "declared intention to keep the renminbi stable in effective terms would imply a weaker renminbi against the dollar were the dollar to appreciate against major currencies," the Basel-based institution said. "In this event, offshore depositors might not hold onto maturing renminbi deposits and Chinese firms would still have reason to repay dollar-denominated debt." **Bloomberg**

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Kana Nishizawa

FOR investors reacting to China's annual policy road-map, it's what authorities didn't say that mattered most.

Chinese small-cap stocks rallied after Premier Li Keqiang failed to mention a planned shift to a more market-based system for initial public offerings, a reform seen luring funds from existing equities. The yuan snapped a four-day gain after policy makers refrained from announcing any support measures. While Li's pledge to make development a top priority boosted transport and infrastructure shares, the nation's sovereign bonds fell on concern the government will boost borrowing to back the economy.

Li outlined an economic growth target of 6.5 percent to 7 percent for 2016, with 6.5 percent pegged as the baseline through 2020. To reach the target, the government said it raised its money supply expansion target and will permit a record high deficit. China's plan to streamline rules for IPOs is unlikely to be implemented this year, according to a person familiar with the situation. Data yesterday showed the decline in the nation's foreign-exchange reserves moderated last month as the yuan stabilized.

Investors consider the delay to new IPO rules as "good news," said Jackson Wong, associate director at Huarong International Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong. "They announced the GDP target, which was rather a bit worrying because they said 6.5 percent to 7 percent, which means it might drop to 6.5 percent. But the market is still ignoring that."

The Shanghai Composite Index added 0.8 percent to 2,897.34 at the close. The gauge climbed 3.9 percent last week after China intervened to support its stock market on Friday, according to two people with direct knowledge of the situation. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index climbed 0.8 percent in Hong Kong.

The ChiNext small-cap index

AP PHOTO



China's Finance Minister Lou Jiwei (left), chats with Assistant Minister Xu Hongcai at a news conference during the annual meeting of China's legislature in Beijing

ANALYSIS

China's small-cap stocks rise, yuan weakens after NPC omissions

advanced 2.4 percent. Officials drafting Li's address decided not to mention the new IPO system because they judged it unlikely to be realized in 2016, said the person, who asked not to be identified as the discussions were private. Speculation the registration system would begin with the small-cap board triggered a 7.6 percent plunge in the index on Feb. 25.

Commodity and industrial companies also rose. Citic Heavy Industries Co. advanced 2.6 percent in Shanghai. China Communications Construction Co. rallied 4 percent to its highest level this year in Hong Kong.

China's top economic planning body launched a three-year action plan to develop major transportation infrastructure, and a draft document of the country's next five-year eco-

nomical plan pledged to build at least 50 new airports by 2020. Total fixed asset investment is projected to increase by 10.5 percent this year.

The yield on government notes due January 2026 rose three basis points to 2.95 percent, the highest level since Feb. 6. The nation's fiscal shortfall is projected to widen to a record 3 percent of gross domestic product this year from 2.3 percent last year, according to a report from the Ministry of Finance.

The bigger fiscal deficit ratio will ensure some key spending, Finance Minister Lou Jiwei said at a conference in Beijing, adding that the move aims to support the economy. The nation will increase infrastructure spending on big, cross-regional projects, he said.

"The government is willing

to do more on fiscal, as well as they're very clear on their monetary easing bias," said Tony Chu, a Hong Kong-based money manager at RS Investment Management, which oversees about \$18 billion. "People are generally more comfortable about China being able to manage their currency well."

The currency fell 0.14 percent to 6.5157 a dollar, ignoring the strongest central bank fixing in two months, according to China Foreign Exchange Trade System prices. The offshore yuan traded in Hong Kong dropped 0.23 percent to 6.5176. The PBOC raised the currency fixing by 0.26 percent to 6.5113.

The currency will remain stable against a basket of exchange rates, People's Bank of China Deputy Governor Yi Gang said on the weekend, using a line that

has been repeated by several officials over the past few months.

"This is typical China style, they are not being inconsistent," said Zhou Hao, an economist at Commerzbank AG in Singapore. "The government thinks the market is too demanding. It's in their interest to follow a path of gradual reform and re-anchor market expectations, and if that means repeating references to the basket of currencies or keeping the currency stable, then so be it."

The world's largest currency hoard dropped by \$28.6 billion to \$3.2 trillion in February, the People's Bank of China said in a statement. The median forecast was for \$3.19 trillion. The stockpile includes the euro, yen, pound and developing nations' assets, in addition to U.S. dollars, the PBOC's Yi said over the weekend. This is the first time a central bank official disclosed the sources of non-dollar assets in the stockpile.

Financial and property shares declined in Shanghai. Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. halted a three-day winning streak, falling 0.5 percent. Developer Gemdale Corp. dropped 1.7 percent.

State-backed funds bought primarily bank shares on Friday, while some local branches of the securities regulator asked listed companies, mutual funds and brokerages to stabilize the market during the meetings, according to people who asked not to be named because the matter isn't public. Authorities have been known to intervene before key national events, with government funds stepping in to boost share prices last August before a military parade.

A gauge of Shanghai property stocks dropped 0.3 percent for the biggest loss among industry groups. Chinese regulators plan to impose new rules to end the practice of homebuyers taking out loans to cover down-payments, as they step up scrutiny of financing risk in the property market, according to different people familiar with the matter. **Bloomberg**

Finance minister: Deficit widening to support growth

SEEKING to douse fears about China's economy, the finance minister said yesterday that Beijing can manage its rising debt load as it steps up deficit spending to prevent a slide in growth.

The deficit target of 3 percent of gross domestic product announced Saturday, up from last year's 2.3 percent, is in line with the ruling Communist Party's long-term reforms, Lou Jiwei said. He spoke at a news conference during the annual meeting of China's legislature.

Chinese leaders, long seen as skilled managers, are scrambling to reassure companies and investors the world's second-largest economy is on track following stock market and currency turmoil.

"We are increasing the debt-to-GDP ratio

to support achieving a medium- to high-speed rate of economic growth," said Lou. "Why do we do that? Because we don't want to see a decrease in economic growth and because we want to give strong support to structural reform."

Lou, the finance minister, acknowledged China's overall debt load has risen, partly due to stimulus spending in response to the 2008 global crisis. But he said the government still can afford to finance its deficits.

Government debts are "not very high" at 11 trillion yuan (USD1.7 trillion) or the equivalent of 40 percent of GDP, Lou said. That compares with over 230 percent of GDP for Japan, which is struggling to restore balance as its population swiftly ages, driving costs for health and

elder care higher.

"The central government has room to continue to issue bonds," he said.

Lou said Beijing needs to do more to control debts owed by local governments. A rapid run-up in such debt has raised concern about possible defaults and the impact on the state-owned banking system.

Last week, Moody's Investors Service cut its outlook on China's government credit rating from stable to negative, citing rising debt, capital outflows and "uncertainty about the authorities' capacity to implement reforms."

A Chinese deputy finance minister retorted that Moody's was wrong and shortsighted in comments reported by the official Xinhua News Agency.

TIBET'S governor said yesterday that a second railway being planned to the Tibetan capital will help bring improvements to the Himalayan region.

First announced last week, the 1,800-kilometer line would link Lhasa with the western metropolis of Chengdu with an estimated travel time of 13 hours.

Few other details are known, but Losang Jamcan, the governor of the Chinese-ruled territory, said during a meeting of Tibetan delegates to China's National People's Congress that Tibet's regional government considers the project important to improving living standards.

The meeting came one week after a Buddhist monk set himself on fire and died in a protest against Chinese rule, in the first such action of its kind this year. The self-immolation protests are seen as an extreme expression of the anger and frustration felt by many Tibetans living under what they consider a heavy-handed administration.

Information from Tibet and traditionally Tibetan regions of western China is extremely hard to obtain due to tight security and travel bans. Chinese authorities have refused to confirm a weeks-long ban on foreign tourists traveling to Tibet reportedly imposed late last month.

Beijing blames the Dalai Lama and others for inciting the immolations and says it

Tibet's governor praises plans for 2nd railway line to Lhasa



Chinese paramilitary policemen check protest flyers scattered by a petitioner (center), after she throws them over traffic lights at a junction near Tiananmen Square during a plenary session of the National People's Congress held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

has made vast investments to develop the region's economy and improve quality of life. The Dalai Lama, the Tibetans' 80-year-old spiritual leader, says he opposes all violence, but warns that Chinese rule is

eroding Tibet's unique Buddhist culture.

The second railway would complement a 1,956-kilometer line that opened in 2006 and crosses passes as high as 5,000 meters.

The existing line, which runs from the western city of Golmud, has brought a new wave of tourists to the Himalayan region, most of them Chinese, along with a further influx of migrants to Lhasa and other

cities. It also facilitates the deployment of troops and military equipment to Lhasa, which is about 300 kilometers from China's disputed border with India. AP

12 killed in gas leak at coal mine in Baishan

A gas leak at a coal mine in northeast China has killed 12 miners, state media reported yesterday.

The accident happened Sunday at a mine in the Jilin province city of Baishan, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Rescuers brought one injured person to a hospital and confirmed yesterday that the other 12 trapped miners were dead.

The cause of the accident is under investigation. Carbon monoxide is typically the main component of noxious gases that leak from coal deposits, and they must be dispersed before poisoning miners or exploding.

China's mines had long been the world's deadliest, but safety improvements have reduced deaths in recent years.

China plans to close scores of mines in regions such as Jilin to reduce overcapacity in the steel and coal industries, causing the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs. AP

FLIGHT MH370

Families file lawsuit in Chinese court

TWELVE Chinese families with relatives aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 have filed a lawsuit in a Beijing court, one day before the deadline for pursuing litigation against the carrier.

The plane disappeared on March 8, 2014, with 239 people — including 153 Chinese citizens — on board en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Under international agreements, families have a two-year window to sue following an air accident.

The group's lawyer, Beijing-based attorney Zhang Qihuai, said the ultimate goal of the lawsuit is "to find out the cause of the accident



Relatives of passengers who were on board the Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 that went missing on March 8, 2014, console each other outside a transportation court after lodging a lawsuit in Beijing

and those who are responsible." The lawsuit, lodged in a transportation court, also named Boeing and jet engine manufacturer Rolls-Royce among the defendants. The court will decide if and where to hear the case. AP

THE rare and awe-inspiring spectacle of a total solar eclipse will unfold over parts of Indonesia and the Indian and Pacific Oceans today, weather permitting. The full eclipse may be visible to several million people within its narrow path including eclipse chasers who have traveled from around the world for a chance to witness it.

WHAT CAUSES A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE?

At least twice a year, the orbits of the moon and Earth result in the moon casting a shadow on the Earth that blocks the sun. Most eclipses are partial but when the moon is close enough to the Earth, the sun is completely eclipsed and only a faint ring of rays known as the corona is visible. The last total solar eclipse was in March 2015. The best reported viewing was on Norway's Svalbard islands near the North Pole. The previous total eclipse was in November 2012.

WHERE WILL THE ECLIPSE BE VISIBLE?

The total eclipse is visible within a roughly 100-150 kilometer-wide path that begins in the Indian Ocean and slices across parts of Indonesia including Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi before ending in the northern Pacific Ocean. Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, is not within the eclipse path, but the Sumatran port city of Palembang with a population of more than 1.4 million is. Cloudy skies, however, can make the much anticipated event a disappointment. And there's a high chance of clouds because Indonesia is in its wet season. People in South Asia, East Asia and the north and east of Australia may see a partial eclipse.

HOW LONG WILL THE ECLIPSE LAST?

The entire eclipse, which begins with the first patch of darkness appearing on the edge of the sun, will last about three hours. For the viewer,

FAQ

Total eclipse of the sun to darken slice of Indonesia



An Indonesian girl looks up through an x-ray film sheet to watch an annular solar eclipse in the sky as people gather in Anyer Beach, Banten province

the exact duration of the total phase of the eclipse depends on their location along the path. The moments in which the sun is entirely obscured will last between 90 seconds and 4 minutes. Palembang in Sumatra will be the first major city to see the total eclipse, at about 7:20 a.m. local time. The position at which the total eclipse lasts the longest, 4 minutes and 9 seconds, is in the Pacific Ocean east of the Philippines. On land the durations are mostly between 1 and 3 minutes.

IS THE ECLIPSE SAFE TO LOOK AT?

It is dangerous to look at the

sun with the naked eye during a partial eclipse, the partial phases of a total eclipse and another type of eclipse called the annular eclipse, particularly using devices such as telescopes. Optometrist and eclipse chaser B. Ralph Chou, who helped develop international standards for filters, wrote that those coated with a fine layer of aluminum, chromium or silver such as the darkest welder's glass and filters made of aluminized polyester in the darkest shades are safe. The filters should be specifically designed for the binoculars and telescopes that they will be fitted to. Another safe but cumbersome

method of viewing is pinhole projection of the image onto a screen. Unsafe filters include color film, black-and-white film that contains no silver, photographic negatives with images, smoked glass and sunglasses even if multiple pairs are worn. During the spectacular moments of total eclipse it is safe to look at the sun with the naked eye.

HOW IS INDONESIA PREPARING?

Authorities have been promoting the eclipse as a tourism event locally and internationally since 2014. Because of their rarity, total eclipses

are a magnet for scientists and eclipse chasers. Overseas tour agencies have chartered ships for groups who want to view the eclipse at sea and many land tours, which are the best for photography, have also been organized. Oklahoma-based Spears Travel says a group led by a former NASA scientist it has booked on a special Holland America Line cruise includes people from Canada, the U.S., Britain, China and Iran. An eclipse festival is planned for Palu, the capital of Sulawesi province, and 11 cities in total are being promoted as places where the total eclipse could be clearly viewed. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

One dead, two injured in shooting at business in western Sydney

ONE person was killed and two others injured in a shooting at a business in western Sydney, police said yesterday.

New South Wales police said that they found three people suffering gunshot wounds after responding to reports

of a shooting at the sign-making business yesterday morning. One 43-year-old man died at the scene, and two other men were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Heavily armed police surrounded the business in an industrial area of Ingleburn, a suburb 40

kilometers southwest of Sydney. Staffers at nearby businesses were told to stay inside and roads were blocked off in the area.

"There's tactical operations unit negotiators on the scene and the operation is continuing," said New South Wales police

Detective Inspector Mark Brett. "It's a delicate stage and I really can't give you much more information than that."

One of the shooting victims was undergoing surgery, while the other had superficial wounds to the lower part of his body, Brett said.



Police Tactical Group officers walk on a cordoned off street of an industrial section of Ingleburn, in suburban Sydney, as police respond to a shooting

Brett would not answer any questions, including whether police believe

the shooter was holding anyone hostage inside the building. **AP**

Foster Klug, Seoul

North Korea again threatens nuke strikes on US, South Korea

NORTH Korea yesterday issued its latest belligerent threat, warning of an indiscriminate "pre-emptive nuclear strike of justice" on Washington and Seoul, this time in reaction to the start of huge U.S.-South Korean military drills.

Such threats have been a staple of young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un since he took power after his dictator father's death in December 2011. But they spike especially when Washington and Seoul stage what they call annual defensive springtime war games. Pyongyang says the drills, which started yesterday and run through the end of April, are invasion rehearsals.

The North's powerful National Defense Commission threatened strikes against targets in the South, U.S. bases in the Pacific and the U.S. mainland, saying its enemies "are working with bloodshot eyes to infringe upon the dignity, sovereignty and vital rights" of North Korea.

"If we push the buttons to annihilate the enemies even right now, all bases of provocations will be reduced to seas in flames and ashes in a moment," the North's statement said.

Responding to the North's threat, South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Moon



An anti-war protester attends a rally opposing the joint military exercises, dubbed Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, between the U.S. and South Korea near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul

Sang Gyun said that North Korea must refrain from a "rash act that brings destruction upon itself."

This year's war games will be the largest ever staged, involving 300,000 South Korean and 17,000 U.S. troops. South

Korea's Yonhap news agency, citing military sources, reported that the allies will work on drills for precision attacks on North Korean leadership and its nuclear and missile arsenal in the event of war.

A pre-emptive large-scale mi-

litary strike that would end the authoritarian rule of the Kim dynasty is highly unlikely. There is also considerable outside debate about whether North Korea is even capable of the kind of "strikes" it threatens. The North makes progress with each new nuclear test — it staged its fourth in January — but many experts say its arsenal may consist only of still-crude nuclear bombs; there's uncertainty about whether they've mastered the miniaturization process needed to mount bombs on long-range missiles and widespread doubt about whether they have a reliable missile that could deliver such a bomb to the U.S. mainland.

But North Korea's bellicose rhetoric raises unease in Seoul and its U.S. ally, not least because of the huge number of troops and weaponry facing off along the world's most heavily armed border, which is an hour's drive from the South Korean capital

of Seoul and its 10 million residents.

The rival Koreas' usual animosity occasionally erupts in bloody skirmishes — 50 South Koreans were killed in attacks in 2010 that Seoul blames on the North — and there is always a worry about an escalation of violence.

Always ragged relations between North Korea and its rivals Seoul and Washington have worsened following North Korea's nuclear test in January and a long-range rocket test last month that outsiders say was a test of banned ballistic missile technology.

The United Nations recently slapped the North with harsh sanctions, and South Korea has taken a harder than usual line, with a new North Korean human rights law and the president in Seoul warning of a collapsed government in Pyongyang. South Korea says it will announce new unilateral sanctions today.

Similar nuclear threats by the North were made in 2013, around the time of the springtime military drills, after the U.N. sanctioned the North over a nuclear test and long-range rocket launch.

Analysts say one part of North Korea's traditional anger over the drills is that they force the impoverished country to respond with its own costly war games. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Rebel warns IS may gain from autonomy delay

THE head of a Philippine Muslim rebel group warned yesterday that the Islamic State group could gain from frustrations in the country's south following the failure of the Philippine Congress to pass an autonomy bill as part of a peace agreement.

Murad Ebrahim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said the militant IS group has attempted over the past year to recruit supporters in Mindanao but his group has worked to convince them that the peace pact signed with the government in 2014 was the best solution.

But he said the delay in enactment of the bill that aims to establish a more powerful and better-funded autonomous region for minority Muslims has led to frustrations that could be capitalized by the IS and other small hard-line rebel groups.

Malaysia is a facilitator in the peace talks, and Murad spoke while passing through Kuala Lumpur.

"There have been some efforts of penetration [by IS] but they have not succeeded in establishing a stronghold in Mindanao," he said during a news conference. "But now after the non-passage of the [bill], we are quite concerned that they can capitalize on this because the [frustration] of the people in the area is now very strong."

The 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front dropped its secessionist bid and settled for broader autonomy



Murad Ebrahim speaks at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur

for minority Muslims in the south of the largely Roman Catholic nation in a Malaysian-brokered pact it signed with Manila in 2014. The conflict has left 150,000 people dead and stunted development in the country's poorest region.

Under the deal, a bill was submitted to Congress to create the autonomous region to be called Bangsamoro. The bill's early passage was stalled by anger over the killing last year of 44 police commandos in fighting that involved some fighters from the Moro group.

Lawmakers ended the last regular session of their term last month without passing the bill.

Murad said his group will not completely abandon its arm struggle but will not revert to violence as long as the peace process has a chance to move forward. He said he is hopeful that the new president, to be elected later this year, will support and continue the efforts for peace. **AP**

INDONESIA

President Joko calls on Muslim world to unite on Palestine

INDONESIA'S president yesterday urged a summit of Muslim nations to be part of the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict rather than part of the problem.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, who heads the most populous Muslim nation, said the entire world is concerned by the deterioration of the situation in Palestine and criticized what he called Israel's "unilateral and illegal policies."

Officials from 57 countries are meeting in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, for a special summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that is focused on Palestine and Jerusalem. The Middle East quartet — consisting of the U.N., Russia, U.S. and European Union — and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are also represented.

"The OIC should be part of the solution, and not part of the problem," Jokowi said in opening remarks to the summit. "If



Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo (center) speaks during the plenary session of the extraordinary OIC summit on Palestinian issues in Jakarta

the OIC cannot be part of the solution to Palestine, then the OIC becomes irrelevant."

Israel says a recent surge in violence is the result of a Palestinian campaign of lies and incitement. Palestinians say it stems from frustration from nearly a half century of Israeli military rule.

For decades, international efforts have failed to work out a lasting comprehensive agreement on

the core issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including Jerusalem, borders, the fate of Palestinian refugees and security arrangements.

Talks ground to a halt three years ago, and efforts to revive them have stalled, particularly over Palestinian demands that Israel announce a freeze in construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, which they claim as part of a future state along with Gaza. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said his country doesn't waver in its belief that what Palestine needs is independence and the right to determine its own affairs.

Among the leaders at the Jakarta meeting is Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court on war crimes allegations linked to the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region. Indonesia is not an ICC member state. **AP**

USA | OBITUARY

Nancy Reagan remembered for her forceful, private style

Hillel Italie, New York

UNLIKE other presidential wives, Nancy Reagan didn't testify before Congress about health care, celebrate controversial Supreme Court decisions or sit in on Cabinet meetings.

"She never emerged as a political player in her own right. Nor did she seek to," says historian David Greenberg, the author of "Republic of Spin: An Inside History of the American Presidency."

"On the other hand, neither did she confine herself to the domestic sphere. And by taking an active role in her husband's business, she helped to reconcile conservatism to the reality of women's changing roles. Her views may have been conservative, but her political involvement implied that it wasn't improper for women to participate in what conservatives considered the man's sphere."

Nancy, who died Sunday at 94, wasn't out to break the rules of being first lady. But she knew well how to work within them. Ronald Reagan had promised to champion conservative values when elected in 1980, and Nancy Reagan was in some ways a throwback to a more old-fashioned approach. Her immediate predecessor, Rosalynn Carter, had attended Cabinet meetings. Betty Ford had spoken candidly about gun control, premarital sex and her



Former first lady Nancy Reagan (left) is escorted by former President George W. Bush

surgery for breast cancer and praised the ruling of *Roe v. Wade*, when the Supreme Court declared a constitutional right to abortion, as "the best thing in the world." In the 1990s, Hillary Clinton would try (and fail) to overhaul the country's health care system.

Nancy Reagan's most public issue was more in line with expectations for first ladies: her "Just Say No" to drugs campaign, which she launched after a schoolgirl asked what to do if someone offered her drugs. The effectiveness of "Just Say No" remains in dispute, but it beca-

me a catchphrase (and punchline) for the 1980s and part of an effort that included drug-free zones and "zero tolerance" policies in schools. Reagan herself gave speeches and even made a cameo appearance on the NBC sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes."

Reagan had other causes and in her post-Washington years openly broke with conservatives by advocating (and allying herself with the liberal Sen. Edward Kennedy) for embryonic stem cell research for Alzheimer's, the disease which afflicted her husband. But while first lady, she stated most of

■ The effectiveness of 'Just Say No' [to drugs] remains in dispute, but it became a catchphrase (and punchline) for the 1980s

her opinions in private. Often in tandem with such White House moderates as Chief of Staff James Baker and longtime adviser Michael Deaver, she favored better relations with the Soviet Union, opposed high military spending and urged the president to speak openly about AIDS.

Her prevailing ambition was to help her husband, and she did so in uncommonly forceful style.

"Ronald Reagan was a striver, but his striving was masked by his courteous, amiable manner and enduring fatalism," biographer Lou Cannon wrote in "President Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime." "Hers [Nancy's] was out in the open, all cards on the table, for anyone to see. With a directness unusual either in Hollywood or Washington,

Nancy Reagan favored anyone who helped her husband or advanced his career and opposed anyone who was in his way. She put people off, while he put them at their ease."

Nancy Reagan acknowledged the limits of her influence. In her memoir, "My Turn," she wrote of her husband that "he often seems remote, and he doesn't let anybody get too close. There's a wall around him." Sometimes, she added, "even I feel that barrier." In his book, Cannon noted that the president ignored her advice on military spending and resisted her and many others before agreeing to fire Baker's unpopular successor as chief of staff, Donald Regan.

Reagan biographer Edmund Morris, who spent three years around the Reagans while he was president, was dismissive of Nancy's political influence. But he did cite her importance to him personally, as someone who managed his finances and other everyday details, and as a "street fighter" who protected her husband from "predators." He likened her to Edith Roosevelt, wife of Theodore Roosevelt.

"Both Reagan and TR tended to like everybody and were easily taken advantage of," Morris says. "And both of these women, Nancy and Edith, were good at keeping away these conniving, predatory people, whether they were office seekers or lobbyists."

Greenberg says Nancy Reagan wasn't "ideologically driven," like many of his aides.

"For that reason, she should get credit, with James Baker and Michael Deaver, for helping him to avoid some of the pitfalls that a consistently hard-right presidency would have encountered," Greenberg says. "Her protectiveness served him well overall." AP

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Celebrities urge world leaders to fight for girls and women

A number of high-profile entertainers — including Oprah Winfrey, Mary J. Blige, Charlize Theron and Meryl Streep — have signed an open letter calling on world leaders to fight for gender equality across the globe.

The letter released yesterday states that some 62 million girls around the world are denied the right to education, 500 million women can't read and 155 countries have laws that discriminate against women.

"Nowhere on earth do

women have as many opportunities as men. Nowhere," the letter states. "The fight for gender equality is global."

Signers also include Tina Fey, Robert Redford, Shonda Rhimes, Ashley Judd, Amy Poehler, Colin Farrell, Danai Gurira, Connie Britton, Elton John, Patricia Arquette, Muhammed Ali, Sheryl Sandberg and Sean Parker. The push is organized by the ONE Campaign, co-founded by Irish rocker Bono to end extreme poverty and disease.

"We still living in a time

period where the most impoverished and disadvantaged people in the world are, without question, women and girls," said Gurira, the playwright of the Broadway show "Eclipsed," in an interview. "The light and the potential of women and girls in the world today is being blocked."

The letter comes a day before International Women's Day, which is today (March 8). It calls on leaders to help girls and women fight HIV and malnutrition and support female economic em-

powerment.

Gurira, who also plays a sword-wielding zombie assassin on AMC's "The Walking Dead," has long been an advocate for women and will travel to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress today.

"Enough is enough. We have to close this gap, and we have to make a concerted, focused effort and that requires speaking directly to the global leaders who have the power to make change," Gurira said. "It's an extension of myself to fight for and, as much as I can, give voice



Oprah Winfrey

to those who are in systems of oppression based on their gender."

An accompanying report called "Poverty Is Sexist 2016" reads: "In too many countries, being born poor and female means a life sentence of inequality, oppression

and poverty — and in too many cases also a death sentence."

Last year, Streep and singers Beyonce and Lady Gaga signed an open letter saying empowering women was the key to fighting the world's inequalities and poverty. AP

USA | ELECTIONS

Marco Rubio easily wins Republican primary in Puerto Rico

Danica Coto, San Juan

SEN. Marco Rubio of Florida easily won Puerto Rico's Republican presidential primary election yesterday [Macau time], with supporters saying he would help lift the island out of its long economic slump.

Returns showed Rubio with 24,866 votes, followed by Donald Trump at 4,494 and Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas at 2,922, with 95 percent of voting centers reporting.

"The numbers are overwhelming," said local Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez, chairwoman of Puerto Rico's Republican Party. "This primary in Puerto Rico... will demonstrate that the Hispanic vote is important."

Residents of the U.S. island, which is struggling through a decade-long economic stagnation, cannot vote in the general election in November but can take part in the party primaries. Any registered voter could participate in the Republican vote, but only if they signed a document of affiliation with the party moments before casting a ballot.

Holding 71 percent of the votes cast Sunday, Rubio was all but sure to win all



A woman marks her vote for Florida's Senator Marco Rubio during Puerto Rico's Republican primary in San Juan

20 delegates determined by the primary. If no one finished with more than 50 percent, the 20 delegates would be divided proportionately among candidates who received at least a 20 percent share. The territory's three super-delegates have committed to Rubio.

Party officials estimated more than 30,000 people cast ballots Sunday. Officials said votes cast Friday by some 6,000 inmates would not be available

until today.

Puerto Rico is one of the few U.S. jurisdictions that allow inmates to vote. The only other people allowed to submit absentee ballots in the territory were military members, but party officials said they did not yet know how many of those had been cast.

Orlando Gomez, a retiree whose two sons recently moved to the U.S. to seek jobs, said he participated in the primary because of concerns over the island's economy. He voted for Rubio.

"He understands Latinos because he is Latino," Gomez said. "And he can bring us closer to statehood."

Voters said in interviews that they want a U.S. president who will help Puerto Rico emerge from a decade of recession and a debt crisis that threatens basic government services.

"We need a radical change," Richard Suarez said as he waited to cast a ballot for Rubio in Guaynabo, a city in the San Juan metropolitan area. "Otherwise, we'll be stuck in the same situation and will have to keep asking the U.S. government for favors."

The island's economic woes affected the

election itself. Edwin Mundo, electoral commissioner for Puerto Rico's Republican Party, said budget cuts forced it to reduce the number of polling places to 110 from more than 3,000 in 2012, dramatically reducing turnout.

No candidate has had a major presence in Puerto Rico this campaign, though Rubio visited the island Saturday for the second time in seven months. There have been no publicly released polls.

Jose Fuentes Agostini, Rubio's campaign president in Puerto Rico, said the senator's visits made a difference.

"This is a great victory," he said. "It is here in Puerto Rico that we're going to change the course of this presidential election for the entire nation."

Politics in Puerto Rico generally revolves around the island's relationship to the U.S. One major party favors statehood and the other wants to maintain the current semi-autonomous commonwealth status. A small minority favors independence. The pro-statehood party has traditionally attracted Republicans and anyone taking part in the primary had to sign a pledge to support the effort to become the 51st state. AP

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what's ON



THE MASTERY OF SHIPBUILDING
— FISHING JUNK MODELS BY WAN CHUN

TIME: 10am-6pm

(Closed on Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: April 9, 2016

VENUE: Gallery of the Historical Archives of Macau,

Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

Nº 91 - 93, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

SHINING CLEAN — EXHIBITION OF YONGLE
PORCELAIN EXCAVATED FROM ZHUSHAN
OF THE JINGDEZHEN OFFICIAL KILN AND MUSEUM

TIME: 9am-9pm

UNTIL: March 13, 2016

VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic
and Municipal Affairs Bureau

ORGANIZER: Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau,
Cultural Affairs Bureau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

SOU PUI KUN'S WORK "MUSIC BOX"
IN EXHIBIT OF CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE

TIME: 10am-7pm

(no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 19, 2016

VENUE: The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

NEW ART PEOPLE PROJECT 2016 POP UP
SHOP FOR SOMETHING — SI-WAI'S CLOTHING
EXPERIMENT EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: March 27, 2016

VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel

Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

Offbeat

DOG POPS UP IN DRIVER'S SEAT WHEN
SEMI CRASHES IN MINNESOTA

One dog apparently has learned a new trick: how to drive a semi-truck.

Customers at a Minnesota gas station saw a golden Labrador retriever appear to drive the semi across a road last week.

Mankato police say the idling truck apparently was put into gear, then went through a parking lot, across the street and over a curb.

The Free Press of Mankato reports a passer-by discovered the dog sitting in the driver's seat when he jumped into the truck to stop it.

David Stegora was at the store when he heard the truck smash into a tree and a parked car. He couldn't see the driver, but saw the dog climb up near the driver's side.

Police say the truck was taken off the road. The driver had left the unoccupied truck running in a nearby parking lot.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:40	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:05	TDM Interview
21:45	Happy Endings S3
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

03 MAR - 09 MAR



GODS OF EGYPT_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

MERMAID_

ROOM 1

7v.30 pm

Director: Stephen Chau

Starring: Deng Chao, Show Lo, Zhang Yu Qi

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 92min

THE ROOM_

ROOM 2

2.30, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Lenny Abrahamson

Starring: Brie Larson, Jacob Tremblay, Sean Bridgers

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 118min

THE FINEST HOURS_

ROOM 2

4.45 pm

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Craig Gillespie

Starring: Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Ben Foster,

Eric Bana

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 117min

LONDON HAS FALLING_

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Babak Najafi

Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart,

Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 99min

MACAU TOWER

03 MAR - 23 MAR

GODS OF EGYPT_

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

this day in history

1950 GAS TURBINE CAR GETS
ROAD TEST

Car manufacturers Rover have unveiled the first car powered with a gas turbine engine.

JET1, a two-seater model powered by the same kind of engine used in a jet, will have its first public test drive at the Silverstone racing circuit in Northamptonshire tomorrow.

The model being tested is still only experimental. But the company hopes production models which will be ready in another three or four years.

JET1 has been built with the engine positioned behind the seats. There are air intake grilles on either side of the car and exhaust outlets on the top of the tail.

During tests, the car has reached top speeds of 90 miles an hour, with the engine running at 50,000 revs per minute.

The Royal Automobile club recorded an acceleration speed of 0-60 (97km) in 14 seconds.

Car designer Spencer King took the car out for an early spin for the benefit of the television cameras.

He said: "I should like to say first of all this car is very easy indeed to drive. I have driven it quite a bit beforehand and there is no difficulty at all.

"You have two pedals, one to start and one to stop with, and the car handles very nicely. It runs dead straight however fast you're going."

The car runs on petrol, paraffin or diesel oil, but consumption is still high - about five to seven miles a gallon (2km to 2.5km per litre).

Chief Engineer Maurice Wilks says he hopes the car will prove a success. "It is obviously the Rover Company's intention to produce a gas turbine engine car as a marketable proposition if and when that becomes practicable," he said.

"It will certainly be as good as, most probably better than, existing piston engine cars in respect of performance and weight. Probably though, it will not be quite so good in respect of fuel consumption, but to balance that the performance will be superb."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Rover first became involved in the development of gas turbine engines during World War II.

Rover and the BRM Formula 1 team joined forces to produce a gas turbine powered coupe, which entered the 1963 LeMans 24-hour race, driven by Graham Hill and Richie Ginther. It averaged 107.8mph (173km) and had a top speed of 142mph (229km).

However, it proved difficult to build an engine small enough to fit in a car, which was also fuel efficient, so the gas turbine powered car was never going to be a viable alternative to the combustion engine.

Rover went into decline in the late 1980s, in common with much of British heavy engineering. BMW took over the company in 1994. It was sold again in 2000 to Phoenix Venture Holdings.

The company began trading as MG Rover, but it struggled to make a profit and went into receivership in 2005. JET 1 is now on permanent display in the Making the Modern World gallery in the Science Museum.

YOUR STARS

♈ Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You're sleepwalking, and it's not all bad. Sometimes not having an independent thought in your head is a benefit. Just do as you're told today if you want to be rewarded by those doling out the directions.

♉ Taurus
April 20-May 20
If you're a risk-taker, you may throw caution to the wind when romance is involved, or put all of your chips on 'Red 17.' But when it comes to other people's money, you owe them a bit of prudence. Take this as a warning.

♊ Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Getting into a groove with your colleagues is much easier than you imagine. You don't have to have long lunches together or socialize after work. In fact, 'good time' extremes are counterproductive.

♋ Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
A big part of being professional is looking professional. Don't show up at work looking like something the cat dragged in, no matter how rough your private or social life is.

♌ Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Adventure and excitement is vital. The office may seem a bit dull, but you don't need a fiery steed and a pole to do some jousting. The competition is all around you, so venture out of your cubicle and explore.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
When you rush forward but get nowhere, part of you wants to say 'just forget it.' But listen to your other half, instead. Sometimes making progress is as easy as going with the flow, so force yourself to slow down.

♎ Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
A coworker is communicating, but you're just not getting it. Pay attention, today. Once you learn their secret code you'll see they're being quite expressive.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Your shrewdness at work is having an effect on your personal life. Where you used to get whipped into a frenzy, you now take a cooler look. Marketing is but one example.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You can only learn so much from watching. If you tend to be an observer, you're missing out on a lot of good feelings. Mix and mingle a bit more, today. It will boost your confidence.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Be realistic, of course, but don't let that stop you from being idealistic. That innocent glow will combine nicely with some discipline and structure to help you succeed.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You can be friends with people who are similar to you, but when it comes to the office, you have to get along with everybody. Try to see what you have in common because you both must contribute to work.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Your boss may think they know best, but when it comes to your own conscience, don't let anybody else be in charge. Some decisions will stay with you long after you forget about the job. Do the right thing, today.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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4		7	9			8			
				4	6				
	1				5				2
	9								1
2			3						5
			7	6					
		4			8	1			9
9	8				1	2			

Easy+

3			8		5				
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	9			5	8				
4	7					5			6
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Medium

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Hard

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WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-1	6	clear/cloudy
Harbin	-11	-4	cloudy
Tianjin	0	6	cloudy/clear
Urumqi	-9	-2	cloudy
Xi'an	6	8	overcast/drizzle
Lhasa	0	14	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	14	19	drizzle
Chongqing	17	22	shower
Kunming	9	24	clear
Nanjing	3	14	drizzle/heavy rain
Shanghai	7	13	drizzle/moderate rain
Wuhan	8	14	moderate rain
Hangzhou	8	17	drizzle/moderate rain
Taipei	18	25	clear/drizzle
Guangzhou	19	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	19	23	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	0	3	overcast/drizzle
Frankfurt	-2	2	sleet/drizzle
Paris	0	6	sleet/drizzle
London	-1	7	clear/drizzle
New York	8	15	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Japan's first capital; 5- Rip; 9- Unified; 14- ___ arms (angry); 15- Novel ending?; 16- Governed; 17- Sail support; 18- Bloke; 19- Long for; 20- Respire; 22- Employee; 24- Capital of Egypt; 26- Compass point opposite WSW; 27- Drink; 30- Dental device; 35- Madrid museum; 36- Prefix with plasm; 37- Bull; 38- Gore and Hirt; 39- Veteran; 42- Colorful card game; 43- Antitoxins; 45- I've Got ___ in Kalamazoo; 46- Bandleader Skinnay ___; 48- Tailor; 50- Fix beforehand; 51- Western Indian; 52- Fantasize; 54- Ascertain dimensions; 58- Intestinal; 62- Bitter; 63- Actor Guinness; 65- Unit of loudness; 66- Teheran native; 67- Sitarist Shankar; 68- ___ expert, but...; 69- Reused wool; 70- Christmas song; 71- Back talk;

DOWN: 1- Deprived of sensation; 2- On ___ with: equal to; 3- Ascend; 4- Tums, e.g.; 5- Computer expert; 6- Old anesthetic; 7- Loss leader?; 8- Gym counts; 9- Secret stuff; 10- Excess; 11- Minnesota's St. ___ College; 12- Campbell of "Scream"; 13- Fulda tributary; 21- Forbidden; 23- Grand ___ National Park; 25- Group of fruit trees; 27- Bridge declaration; 28- 1957 hit for the Bobbettes; 29- Iraqi port; 31- List-ending abbr.; 32- People and places, e.g.; 33- Bert's buddy; 34- Perch; 36- Border; 40- "See ya!"; 41- Clear of vermin; 44- Causing laughter; 47- Agent of retribution; 49- Workroom; 50- Writing instrument; 53- Actor Christopher; 54- Disfigure; 55- Linen hue; 56- Irish island group; 57- Make; 59- Capital of Italia; 60- Bed-and-breakfasts; 61- Corp. bigwigs; 64- Asian language

Yesterday's solution

S	C	A	N	A	R	I	S	E	G	O	B	I		
T	O	N	E	M	A	N	E	T	O	N	E	A		
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
G	L	E	N	N	S	O	T	O	S	T	E	O		
E	G	G	L	O	T	T	O							
N	A	U	S	E	A	T	E	H	A	N	G	A	R	
E	R	N	S	L	O	S	E	I	T	A	R	A		
S	R	I	S	I	R	I	R	E	L	E	G			
T	A	O	C	L	O	W	N	S	R	E	N	E		
S	U	N	D	A	E	R	E	T	R	E	A	T	S	
E	L	O	P	E	V	E	P							
A	L	E	T	A	E	S	S	A	R	I	A	S		
S	U	P	E	R	I	N	T	E	N	D	E	N	C	Y
E	R	O	S	V	A	L	E	S	S	E	A	N		
T	E	S	T	E	L	E	N	A	S	E	R	S		

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Eddie Pells

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Manning changed the way we play and watch the game

To find the true measure of what Peyton Manning meant to football, don't bother poring over the highlights from his record 186 wins, or re-watching either of his Super Bowl victories, or looking at a single throw he made on his way to a record-setting 71,940 passing yards over 18 seasons.

Instead, simply wait 'til September. When it comes, pick any weekend, turn on any game — pro, college, high school — and watch quarterbacks lining up in the shotgun, changing plays at the line of scrimmage, dissecting defenses at will and rolling up numbers that were once deemed unthinkable.

All those quarterbacks are doing what Manning showed was possible. He created the passing game as we know it in 2016 and, in turn, forced defenses to adapt and disguise and get better. He won as much with his mind as his arm, and put as much work into Monday through Friday as he did when he suited up on Sunday.

"It's not to say audibles didn't exist before Peyton Manning came around, because they did," said Tim Hasselbeck, the former NFL quarterback who is now an analyst for ESPN. "But he'd go to the line of scrimmage with the ability to get to the play that would be best for the defense out there. You look around the league at what other teams were trying to do, and they were trying to emulate what Peyton Manning was doing as a quarterback."

Set on the notion that every defense had a weak spot, the Colts-turned-Broncos quarterback spent hours analyzing them, the way a wealth manager looks at stocks. Then, on Sundays, he tore



Indianapolis Colts' Peyton Manning

them apart. His calls of "Omaha, Omaha" — whatever that meant — were as frustrating to the defenses as they were entertaining to those counting along at home.

In short, Manning obliterated the long-held notion in football that the word "pass" automatically had to be associated with "risk."

"You changed the game forever and made everyone around you better," Manning's biggest rival, Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, said in a shout-out to No. 18.

So, the question becomes, where does Manning rate among the all-time greats?

Like almost everything else he touched over nearly two decades in the NFL, Manning has recalibrated this question.

Measured by mere Super Bowl titles, he is beaten — with two

fewer than Brady, Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw.

Measured by mere athleticism, he cannot stand up to John Elway's grit or Dan Marino's arm or Steve Young's combination of speed and precision.

He didn't have the common man's, swashbuckling style of Kenny Stabler and Brett Favre, or the ability (or need) to constantly absorb the game's brutality, a la Troy Aikman and Fran Tarkenton.

But pointing out the obvious is selling Manning short, especially considering the brutally difficult comeback he made after four neck surgeries that, in many minds, should have put him out of the game forever.

Starting at Square One, barely able to release the ball from his hand, Manning rebuilt his game

and played four years in Denver, leading the Broncos to two Super Bowls, one title, and, in 2013, directing the most prolific offense in NFL history.

The last season, and the last few months, were, in a strange way, the most impressive.

Burdened with a bum foot that sent him to the bench for six weeks, Manning did the grunt work of a rehabilitating backup. Only when the Broncos bogged down in the regular-season finale did he get back in the game. He checked to the right plays, didn't try to do too much and let the defense guide the way. Manning completed only 13 passes and Denver gained only 194 yards in last month's Super Bowl victory over Carolina — the lowest yardage total ever for a winner.

That Manning was willing to go with the flow, not fight it, spoke volumes of the kind of quarterback he really was.

His legacy, he said, wasn't about the five MVP awards, the 539 touchdown passes and all the rest of the records.

"For me," he said before the Super Bowl, "it's being a good teammate, having the respect of my teammates, having the respect of the coaches and players."

While changing the game, he also burnished a remarkable off-the-field career — showing fans and fellow players that, yes, when the time is right, you can

do the commercials, do the funny on "Saturday Night Live," build multimillion-dollar charities and somehow come off like the guy next door.

Too good to be true?

Maybe. The last few months have been checkered with reports that linked him to human growth hormone and a rehashing of a sexual harassment claim from his days at Tennessee.

Those stories will play out, and could ultimately harm Manning's legacy.

But for almost anyone who played with him, or coached him, there's not much left to debate.

In an interview three years ago, Manning's college quarterbacks coach, David Cutcliffe, spoke about one of the first plays any Tennessee player had to learn when they arrived in Knoxville in the 1990s. It was a staple of the offense, called "62 Meyer."

During the summer leading into his freshman year, Manning studied the play, then took three pages' worth of his own handwritten questions and gave them to Cutcliffe before fall practice started.

Ultimately, Manning almost always figured out the answers — at Tennessee, then in Indianapolis and, finally, during his four years in Denver.

"He redefined preparation," Cutcliffe said. "He redefined the quality of the work that's expected of the people around him." AP

CRICKET

Big shots, big crowds destined to make World T20 exciting

MAHENDRA Singh Dhoni was there when India won the first Twenty20 world title, a victory that transformed a relatively new cricket concept into a game-changing phenomenon.

He faces enormous expectations again leading the national team as the world tournament finally comes to India, home to the richest domestic league and some of the most damaging batsmen in the format such as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

India has won 10 of its last 11 T20 internationals, including the Asia Cup final on Sunday, and a 3-0 series victory in Australia and starts the tournament as a favorite.

And although Dhoni said recently that India can "take on any team anywhere in the world" he also understands the tricky nature of the shortened game.

"The difference between teams can often be just one knock, one individual batsman having a very good day or one bowler having a very good day," said Dhoni, who led

India to a five-run victory over Pakistan in the final of the inaugural World Twenty20 in South Africa in 2007.

India is aiming to become the first host to win the ICC World Twenty20.

The batsmen-friendly pitches are expected to make the 16-team tournament a run-feast much like the Indian Premier League, which has given experience of the conditions to star players from all over the cricket world.

The tournament gets underway today with a preliminary league involving eight teams, two of which qualify for the Super 10 stage which will feature intense derbies between Australia and New Zealand and India and Pakistan in the picturesque hill city of Dharamsala.

The final is set for Kolkata on April 3.

Five countries have won the title in five previous editions, with India, Pakistan, England, the West Indies and Sri Lanka winning in that order. Australia has won

the World Cup in the one-day format more than any other country, but so far the T20 title has been elusive — its best run resulting in a loss to England in the final in 2010. South Africa and New Zealand also haven't won the claimed the T20 crown, but have the firepower to break their droughts.

The Sri Lanka squad isn't playing with anything like the level it reached to beat India in the 2014 in Bangladesh, and is struggling without retired batsmen Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara, finishing only above the United Arab Emirates at the recent Asia Cup. It lost all three games that mattered — to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Pakistan was also less than impressive at the Asia Cup and its batsmen will have to score enough for the likes of Mohammad Amir and Wahab Riaz to make a contest of it.

There are 35 matches to be played over 27 days at eight venues including the pre-



India's Virat Kohli

liminary league.

From the initial phase, one team from among Bangladesh, Ireland, Oman and the Netherlands will advance to Group 2, which comprises Australia, India, New Zealand and Pakistan.

Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Scotland and Zimbabwe will compete for a place in Group 1 featuring England, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies. AP

opinion

Our Desk

Renato Marques



THERE ARE NO FREE LUNCHES

This obvious quote has passed our lips every now and then.

Nevertheless, many people keep dreaming about "free lunches" (and dinners) and thinking that the big deal about life is really to enjoy these "freebies" whenever you can.

On a related note, a few days ago, I was reading one of those short stories that always feature a moral lesson. This is how the story went:

In a university, a student unexpectedly interrupted the class to ask the professor, "Do you know how to catch wild pigs?"

The professor thought it was a joke and expected a funny punchline. The young man replied that it was not a joke and launched into his dissertation:

"You catch wild pigs by finding a suitable place in the woods and spreading some corn on the ground. Pigs will come daily to eat the free corn. When they are used to coming every day, you start building a fence next to the place where they are used to eating.

"They might find it strange in the beginning but once they get used to the fence, they will return to eat the corn and then you can continue to build the fence. You repeat this process over time until you manage to install the four sides of the fence around the pigs. Then you install a gate at one end.

"Since the pigs are already used to the free corn and the fences, they will start coming through the gate. That is when you close the gate and catch the whole group.

It's as simple as that. In a second, the pigs have lost their freedom. They will continue to run in circles inside the fence, but you do not need to worry about it because they have already been subjected to your will.

"Once they get used to their new condition they will eat the free corn again. They get so used to it that they forget how to hunt for themselves, so they accept slavery; moreover, with time, they will start to show gratitude to their captors and generation after generation will happily face the slaughter."

The young man continued, saying to the professor, "This is exactly what I see happening in your country, in your territory or in your city with its people. Where dictatorial governments, or any other kind of leaders, often hide under the blanket of 'democracy', giving them free corn long enough to achieve systematic meekness.

"Each new 'brilliant leadership' disguises his aims in aid programmes, giving away money, forgiveness, protection laws and subsidies for anything; establishing Social Welfare Programmes, holding parties, fairs and or festivals, transportation, all 'free'! The rulers offer happiness to the people used to this "free corn", but in fact, they strip us of our ability to be critical thinkers and entrepreneurs.

"In the end, with the clear idea in mind that 'nothing is free', you realize that all these wonderful "help programmes" from the "big brothers" are, in fact, a big problem, because they establish a contradictory idea that opposes the future, that opposes development, evolution and even democracy."

Coming back to where I started, I would say that I am pretty sure that you have all heard that other famous quote: "all the best things in life are free." You had better think twice about that one too, because "there are no free lunches", I say.

THE AMERICAN COMPANY BUNGLED
BUZZ EBOLA RESPONSE

An Associated Press investigation has found that an American company that bills itself as a pioneer in identifying emerging epidemics made a series of costly mistakes during the 2014 Ebola outbreak that swept across West Africa.

San Francisco-based Metabiota Inc. was criticized for feuding with fellow responders, contributing to misdiagnosed Ebola cases.

The government laboratory that Metabiota shared with Tulane University in eastern Sierra Leone misdiagnosed several patients with Ebola and one WHO scientist told colleagues in an email that it was "a situation that WHO can no longer endorse."

Metabiota founder Nathan Wolfe contested the claims.

Tokyo zoo to work on changing living conditions for elephant



Hanako the elephant stands in her pen at Inokashira Park Zoo

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

A Tokyo zoo said it will work on improving the living conditions for its 69-year-old elephant after an animal welfare expert recommended simple additions such as infrared heaters and new toys instead of moving her to a sanctuary.

"The zoo has done a lot of good," said Carol Buckley, who was invited to the zoo by the "Help Hanako" campaign that sought to improve the elephant's situation or move it to a Thai sanctuary.

Hanako was among the healthiest elephants, for her age, she has ever seen, she added. Their usual li-

fespan is about 70 years.

Inokashira Park Zoo has said moving Hanako would be too stressful. A gift from Thailand in 1949, Hanako, or "flower child," has lived in a zoo since she was 2.

Buckley said Hanako is happy and loves her zookeepers. Instead of moving her, Buckley recommends infrared heaters and rubber mats to make her small concrete pen more livable. She suggested playing music and adding more toys, such as frozen fruit inside a tire. Tires and a tube are Hanako's favorite toys now.

Buckley, an American who founded an animal sanctuary and has worked

with other captive elephants, said renovating or enlarging Hanako's pen would require noisy construction that might stress the animal. And introducing other elephants and even foliage could bewilder Hanako.

Zoo Curator Hidemasa Hori, who met with Buckley during her visit, said the zoo will work on making the "environmental enrichment" changes, although some bureaucratic procedures would be required. The city of Tokyo runs the zoo.

Ulara Nakagawa, whose blog inspired the campaign, says funds can be raised to help make changes for Hanako.

It was unclear whether those who were behind the petition drive to move Hanako out of the zoo would be convinced by Buckley's findings.

Buckley noted animal activists need to be educated, regardless of their good intentions.

"You think she should be put on a plane or a boat and go to Thailand? What are you thinking?" she said.

Buckley noted Hanako was clearly bored and needs more toys as well as more time with the zookeepers. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAQ Officials say the death toll from Sunday's suicide truck bombing south of Baghdad has climbed to 61. A police officer said yesterday that among the dead were 52 civilians, while the rest were members of the security forces.



SYRIA Russia says it is aiming to step up humanitarian aid to Syria's war-battered people by opening up its military facilities in Syria for international aid cargos. The Defense Ministry said that Russia "is ready to provide all necessary help to international and foreign organizations in the delivery of humanitarian aid."



NATO announced that it was expanding its mission to help choke off the smuggling of migrants into Europe by deploying warships in Greek and Turkish waters, reinforcing its flotilla and deepening cooperation with the European Union's Frontex border agency.



USA Bernie Sanders has beaten Hillary Clinton in the Maine caucuses, taking 64% of the vote, in the latest contest in the battle to be the Democratic presidential candidate. In the Republican race, Marco Rubio easily won Puerto Rico's primary, beating billionaire Donald Trump. More on p15

TUNISIA 26 people have been killed in clashes between police and unidentified gunmen near the Libyan border. The interior and defense ministries said in a joint statement yesterday that the dead included 21 attackers, one Tunisian soldier and four civilians. A 12-year-old girl was among the civilians who were killed.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

John Stillwell/Pool via AP



First time out. Britain's Prince William (right), and Duchess of Cambridge with their children, Princess Charlotte (center left), and Prince George, enjoyed a short private break skiing in the French Alps last week. This is the first time the family of four have taken a holiday together.